

HOUSE RESOLUTION 202

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Woodland Elementary School's principal, student body, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff on the occasion of the school's 50th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary educational institutions that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, Woodland Elementary School is most assuredly one such noteworthy institution; over the past fifty years, Woodland has produced outstanding young citizens who have excelled in all walks of life and has remained a pillar of educational excellence since its first day of operation on August 17, 1955; and

WHEREAS, before the existence of Woodland Elementary School, there were five schools in the area: Ivy Bluff, Geedville, Mooretown, Pleasant View, and Hollow Springs; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s, when the school system began to move toward consolidation of schools within the school district, a committee went to each of the schools within the area to extol the benefits of consolidation; and

WHEREAS, four of the five schools approached, Ivy Bluff, Mooretown, Pleasant View, and Geedville, had enough interest in consolidation for a new school to be built on the Manchester Highway, now known as the Jim Cummings Highway (State Highway 53); and

WHEREAS, Woodland Elementary School began operation in 1955, with seven distinguished teachers: Beecher Bowen, Principal and eighth grade; Ruby Bowen, first grade; Julia Swanger, second grade; Mildred Parker, third grade; Jewell Higgins, fourth and fifth grade; Josie Lee Brown, sixth grade; and Willie Winnett, seventh grade; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, the Hollow Springs School was also consolidated into Woodland; and



WHEREAS, in 1979, after twenty-four years of growth in the Third District, an additional four rooms were added to Woodland to accommodate the kindergarten and first grade classes; and

WHEREAS, twenty-three years later, an additional thirteen rooms and another set of bathrooms were added to the school in 2002, increasing its original size by almost half; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Woodland began the process of attaining accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS); the faculty and staff members compiled a handbook which confirmed that school's policy and procedures, as well as academic progress and community involvement, met the standards for accreditation; and

WHEREAS, in May 2004, the SACS committee evaluated the school positively, and a delegation from Woodland attended the December meeting of the SACS committee to officially receive the accreditation and herald the unqualified success of the consolidated school; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2004, the school newspaper, *The Warrior Weekly*, proudly began publication; it is the first school newspaper in the county since the high school paper ceased publication in the late 1970s, and offers further evidence of the tremendous growth of the community; and

WHEREAS, not content to rest on its laurels, Woodland Elementary School joined other large county schools this year in offering an exciting new "Exploratory" program for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students; class choices include Aerospace, Real World Math, Anatomy, Library, Novels, Drama, Computer, Journalism, Art, and Physical Education, all designed to intrigue, captivate, and stimulate students' intellectual abilities; and

WHEREAS, evincing a strong commitment to community service, Woodland Elementary School students learn daily about their duty and moral obligation to help those less fortunate than themselves; and

WHEREAS, Woodland Elementary School has provided and continues to provide a quality education to some of our finest and most capable young people; those who have gone on to become leaders in their communities and those who have achieved success in many diverse areas of life serve as testament to its educational excellence; and

WHEREAS, through the steadfast support of the community and faithful parental involvement, Woodland Elementary School continues to be a bastion of excellence in academics and in life, molding young minds into the scholars and leaders of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, the members of this body find it appropriate to recognize and celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Woodland Elementary School; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Woodland Elementary School's principal, student body, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff on the occasion of the school's fiftieth anniversary and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.